**Industrial Growth Centres in Assam**

1516. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for setting up of Industrial Growth Centres in Assam;

(b) the number of Industrial Growth Centres set up so far in the State, location-wise;

(c) the details of the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(d) if no funds have been allocated so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Under the Growth Centre Scheme, three Growth Centres are to be set up in Assam. Of these, two Growth Centres one each at Chariduar (district Sonitpur) and Matia (District Goalpara) have been sanctioned by the Central Government and are at various stages of development. For the third Growth Centre proposed to be set up at split location at Chaygaon-Patgaon in Kamrup District, a revised proposal from the Government of Assam has been received which is under consideration in this Department. An amount of Rs. 1450 lakh as Central assistance has so far been released under the scheme to the State of Assam.

**Foreign investment in plantation crops in Kerala**

1517. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign investors are pressing Government to allow foreign investment in the plantation sector of Kerala;

(b) whether Government propose to allow foreign investment in the plantation crops such as rubber, coffee, tea, etc. in the State;

(c) whether the WTO insisted to allow the above investment;

(d) whether any foreign companies or investors have put forward any application to allow investment in the plantation sector of the State;